

# Fogg Art Museum

Harvard University · Cambridge · Massachusetts 02138

Coin Room  
February 4, 1971

Dear Mr. Newman,

The Harvard Library forwarded to me your letter of December 28 just yesterday; it evidently had been gathering dust on a desk somewhere. We do indeed have a catalogue - in manuscript - done by W.B. Lamb in 1857; it is charmingly bound up in calf and inscribed by the author. At the moment it is locked up in a coin cabinet in the coin room of the Fogg Museum.

The collection at the time Mr. Lamb worked with it was not very large, and the modern collection has grown very little since the 19th century. We have at this time an excellent collection of ancient coins, however. There appear to be only 11 pages which refer to American material, so I xeroxed them, along with the title page. If you need further material, it could easily be arranged.

I know of no printed catalogue of the early collections at Harvard, and I doubt that any exists. Although I have not checked very carefully, the collection as Mr. Lamb catalogued it appears to be essentially intact.

I hope that this answers some of your questions, and please let me know if I can be of any more service to you.

Sincerely,

  
John Gleason

A  
Catalogue  
of  
Coins and Medals  
in  
the Library of  
Harvard College,  
arranged April-June, 1859,  
by  
William Eliot Lamb,  
of the class of 1859.

# United States

[State Coinage is included here]

## Connecticut

50751

O. AUCTORI: — CONN. — LAW.

"First in common to C. [The design, taken from the half penny of George III, probably represents the State]

R. INDS: @ — ET LIB: Liberty,

[in place of Britannia] Seated on globe holding in r. of laurel in r. & left [the cap] in l. At side, a shield.

In Exergue, 1785 [First year of Impria]   
 {Halfpenny on V. Cent 15

50752

O. AUCTORI: B — CONN. —

"Law. First to r.

R. @ INDS: [ET LIB: Liberty

as above. In Exergue, 1787

50753

O. AUCTORI: — @ CONN. —

Third [of Conn.] to be in common

R. @ INDS: @ — @ — ET LIB: Liberty

as before. In Ex. 1787

He. Harmon Dm. {Halfpenny on V. Cent 15

50754 A Conn. Act of 1787 with ins.   
 "of clipped coinage & 'double struck'   
 He.

## Massachusetts

50755 O. COMMON — WEALTH

Arms of Mass.: An Indian standing, bow looking to r., holding in dex. a bow & in sin. an arrow, point downward. Over dex. chief, a bull's head of 5 p.

R. MASSACHUSETTS In Exergue

bearing on breast Arms of Confederated States: for globe, chief [etc. Arg. bar] charged CENT, base palewise 13 stripes to a Ga.

In r. claw of Eagle, palm br. In l. a bundle of many arrows. In Exergue, 1787   
 He. Harmon Dm. Cent

<sup>556</sup>  
A duplicate to above  
(Horn Don)

<sup>557</sup>  
As above

R. As above but on thick  
leaf, HALF - base, CENT Lx.

1787

As. Half Cent

<sup>558</sup>  
L. Lx. but struck in the  
leaf. Half Cent

<sup>559</sup>  
O. As above

R. As above but date, 1788  
Cent.

A duplicate of above

### New Jersey

<sup>560</sup>  
O. NOVA CAESAREA L. novae caes.

" On which a horse's head engraved, Lx.

2 Leaves, 1780

R. (2) L. (2) PLURIBUS (2) UNUM (2)

Title of Confederation: per ipse, - &c. & per  
he. (Horn Don) No Cent

<sup>561</sup>  
O. As above. Rim indented

R. As above. Rim indented

he. No Cent

<sup>562</sup>  
O. Lx. to above - date 1785

R. Lx. to above

he. No Cent

<sup>563</sup>  
O. As above. Rim not indented

R. (2) L. (2) PLURIBUS (2) UNUM (2)

As above. Below, two  
branches of Laurel, copied

he. No Cent

<sup>564</sup>  
O. As above, but date 1787 - Rim  
indented

R. (2) L. (2) PLURIBUS (2) UNUM (2)

As above. Below, Rim indented

he. No Cent

<sup>577</sup>  
O. NOVA CAESAREA. Blough to C.  
above, Nov. Lead to C. Below shield  
a strip of three leaves indented to r. in  
League, 1787. Rim indented  
R. to above, but below shield are  
two br. of Laurel & crossed  
No. One Cent

## New York

<sup>578</sup>  
O. C. NOVA C. — LIBORAC C.  
" Laur. bush in armor to C.  
R. C. VIRT. ET — LIB C.  
Liberty seated on globe, holding  
laurel br. in r. & liberty pole  
& cap in l. — At side a shield  
with copies of St George & Britannia.  
in League, 1787  
No. One Cent

## Vermont

<sup>579</sup>  
O. VERMONTIS RES. PUBLICA  
[Green] brown taint in distance clothed with  
trees. Sun rising in den. 2 front,  
a blough to C. Below, 1785.  
R. STELLA QUARTA DECIMA.  
This coin story of D. P. in Castellations,  
in Antares, an eye.  
No. One Cent

<sup>580</sup>  
O. VERMONTIS RES. PUBLICA  
" Blough as above  
R. STELLA QUARTA DECIMA.  
In Eye with 13 rays holding  
13 stars  
No. One Cent

<sup>581</sup>  
O. VERMONT — VICTORI  
" Laur. Lead to C. in armor  
(for Vermont)  
R. INDE — ET LIB — Liberty  
seated, holding laurel in r. & lib.  
pole [cap] in l. At side, shield  
with copies of St George & Britannia  
in League, 1788  
No. One Cent

sub:

0. © FUGIO. © — © 1787 © —

Med-day den with rays. Below, a  
real necked I H M V VI, a T,  
VI VII IX — XI XX a C. L. League,  
MIND YOUR BUSINESS

R. Thirteen links [unmarked] forming  
continuous chain. Within, UNITED  
© STATES © On a band. Within,  
WE / ARE / ONE  
Se. Learn den. Cent

sub:  
0. As above

R. As above THE STATES ©  
UNITED  
Se. Cent

sub:  
0. Duplicate Se above

sub:  
0. Letter to above, — of longden  
Se. Cent

sub:  
0. LIBERTY [without period] Head  
to C. Hair flying Below, a ring  
of three bars of upright direction.  
Below, 1793 Ring headed.

7 21 15  
Towns of United States

(For method of arrangement,  
in Towns of Gr. Britain),  
Amer. Institute, in N.Y. Robinson Jan. 10. 1834  
Attleboro

sub:  
0. S. B. Schenck  
O. WOODWORTH'S PATENT —  
PLANING MACHINE / MADE IN

BY / S. B. SCHENCK / ATTLEBORO  
/ MASS. Planing machine

R. THIS MACHINE IS CAPABLE  
OF PLANING TONGING.

OK / GROOVING, / OR JOINING,  
/ OR RABBETING, / 18 FEET  
OF BOARDS / OR PLANK —  
IN A MINUTE / 1834  
Se. (Learn den.) Cent

Boston  
Alfred Willard

sub:  
0. ALFRED WILLARD 149

WASHINGTON ST. BOSTON

A Cent

R. (2) IMPORTER OF JEWELRY 35  
/ FANCY GOODS, CUTLERY  
BRUSHES, / PERFUMERY,

COMBS N° 6 BY N° / WHOLESALE /  
G. OR N° / RETAIL  
Ac. (Drawn Dr.) Cent

Bucklin, su first

Georgia  
George III  
O. GEORGIUS ... TRIUMPHO

"Head of George III, Laurels to L.  
Behind

R. VOCE — POPOLI  
a tribunal of 13 judges, a  
fig. of Victory holding in r.,  
a br. of Laurel & in l., a spear.

Below, 1783

(This piece is usually referred  
to the coins of Georgia — I  
know not on what ground.)

Ac. Half penny  
Cent

<sup>518</sup>  
"A duplicate of above.

Lafayette, su Lansinburg,  
— Walsh

Lansinburg  
Walsh

"520-523  
O. WALSH'S / GENERAL STORE /

LANSENBURG (NY) / 1835 Two Oak L. & C.

R. LAFAYETTE, A FRIEND TO  
AMERICA & FREEDOM Lafayette  
standing, in citizen's dress, holding hat &  
cane in r. Below, DIED MAY 20 / 1834

(This reverse was also used by H. M. &  
E. S. Richards of Allaboro, Mass.)  
Ac. (Drawn Dr.) Cent

Massachusetts, su Allaboro, B. Schmidt  
Merchants Exchange, su N. York

New York (city)  
American Institute  
Robinson [?] Jones & Co.

<sup>519</sup>  
"O. AMERICAN INSTITUTE Design of  
medals of Institute in 1833. In  
Exergue, NEW YORK / N

R. On both, COPY OF A MEDAL / —  
AWARDED TO ROBINSON'S JONES  
& CO. / (OAK H.) FOR THE BEST (Palm br.)  
MILITARY, NAVAL, / & SPORTING /  
& PLAIN FLAT / BUTTONS / 1833  
Ac. (Drawn Dr.) Cent

Merchants Exchange, Wall St.  
<sup>520-523</sup>  
"O. MERCHANTS EXCHANGE WALL  
ST. N. YORK — Exchange Building.  
Below, BUILT 1827 / BURNT 1857  
R. MILLIONS FOR DEFENCE

Within (or. of olive: [NOT] / ONE / CENT) - /  
FOR TRIBUTE  
Ac. (Havm Don.) Caut

Talbot, Allen & Lee  
O. LIBERTY & COMMERCE Lib.  
standing; in r. lib. pole & cap; behind  
her, bales. Below, 1794

R. TALBOT ALLEN & LEE. / NEW YORK  
A Ship under sail to l. Below, ONE CENT  
Payable AT THE STORE OF  
+ + + +  
Ac Caut

New York (State), in Lansingburgh,  
-Walsh-

Robinson Jones & Co., in N. Y.,  
- American Institute

Schenck, J. B., in Attleboro

Talbot Allen & Lee, in N. York  
Walsh, in Lansingburgh

West

Bucklin Lib. to r. Around 13 Head of Y.  
O. Head of  
R. BUCKLIN'S B[OK] KEEPING  
In (or. of olive, WEST / TRAY

Ac. (Havm Don.) Caut

Willard, Alfred, in Boston  
Bosworth, in Attleboro, - J. B. Schenck

Shakes of the Church



The copper coinage of Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden thus also underwent heavy losses.

The tragic fate of the late Russian Czar will bring additional historical interest to the gold and silver rubles of his reign and create considerable demand for them. So many of these have been remitted in other countries that some of the issues are apt to become scarce. The dethronement of the German Kaiser and his exile will affect the numismatic value of the gold and silver pieces bearing his likeness. In addition, much of the German gold money has gone out of the country and probably been recoined. In this connection it is advisable to keep an eye on the 10 and 20 mark pieces of the Emperor Frederick III, his father and predecessor, who reigned only a few months in 1888. Both of these issues are rather scarce, especially the 10 mark pieces. Many of the later gold coins of Wurtemberg and other integral parts of the former German Empire will bear watching. This also holds good with the Austrian and Hungarian gold pieces. But about the only Central European gold American numismatists will get a chance to secure for some time to come is that which was in this country prior to the war.

In course of time there will be many new European coins to interest American numismatists, especially from the newly created countries, but that still seems like a far look into the future. At present they are all so busy printing more paper money that it is questionable whether we shall be able to see any of their real money for some time to come.

#### THE HARVARD COLLECTION OF COINS AND MEDALS.

The Harvard Alumni Bulletin for January 12, 1922, contains an article on the Harvard Collection of Coins and Medals, by Dr. Malcolm Storer, from which we take the following extracts:

Hidden away in the recesses of the Widener Library and quite inaccessible for the most part to those who might be interested, except by appointment with the curator, is a large collection of coins and medals of no small importance as collections go. Furthermore, it is probably one of the oldest in the country; for while some medals may have been given the college at an even earlier date, I find that in 1764 William Molynieux, Tutor, presented some 250 old French billion coins. Although we have a large number of coins that must have come to us early in the nineteenth century I find no further record of gifts until 1853, after which date they have come in with much greater frequency.

The collection is now a fairly large one, for, after disposing of many duplicates, we have some 6,500 coins and medals fairly representative of the numismatic activities of the whole world.

In 1859 Mr. W. B. Lamb compiled a laborious catalogue of the collection as it then stood, numbering some 650 coins. After that time nobody seems to have taken the slightest interest in it until 1898, when, at the instigation of Dr. H. R. Storer, '30, John H. Storer, '92, was appointed the curator and the collection sent down to Newport for the family to work over, after it had been resurrected from the various drawers and cubbyholes where it had been tucked away in old Gore Hall.

Incidentally we discovered that many of the gold and silver coins which had appeared in Mr. Lamb's catalogue of 1859 were not to be found—whether stolen or removed to some professor's strong-box for safe keeping, I have never known.

In 1902 I took the place of my brother as Curator—sacrificing for that high honor my right to vote for Overseers! I placed some thousands of the coins in leaves swinging on an upright standard so arranged that both sides of the coins could be seen. This standard is now on an upper floor of the Widener Library, where, I suppose, not many visitors ever see it; but at least what coins are there can be examined, although the light is very poor.

Since being in charge of the collection I have felt that, although naturally welcoming gifts of any description, there were two fields to which I should devote my chief energies: first, in obtaining medals of as many as

possible of the men to whom Harvard has given degrees, and second, to paying especial attention to medals dealing with education.

As to the first, I will say that of the eighty-seven holders of Harvard degrees in whose honor I know medals have been struck we have fifty-nine represented in the collection.

As to the medals dealing with education, I have picked up a few on the rare occasions when the treasury showed signs of plethora, and, thanks to the amiable custom obtaining among institutions of learning of sending to their sister universities any medals they may issue, we have received a few more.

Professor Chase has found the collection of much assistance in his work, and most of our Greek and Roman coins have been turned over to him to use as illustrations of his lectures. Apparently if a student actually has a coin of Nero in his hands it means something more to him than any number of pictures.

Meanwhile Harvard possesses an extremely good numismatic library, owing largely to the fostering care of H. W. Bell, '07, who was appointed Curator of Numismatic Literature in 1911. This library is not only rich in the best numismatic periodicals and the older books, but also well up to date in the newer literature, having, for example, Lord Milford Haven's magnificent work on Naval Medals, apparently cut down to only two volumes by his lamented death. In the quiet alcoves of the Widener Library the student may work at peace with a wealth of material ready to his hand.

I must not neglect to mention the magnificent collection of medals relating to the World War, numbering several thousands, formed by W. M. Welch, '02, and placed on exhibition by him in the Treasury Room two years ago. It is Mr. Welch's great hope that a sufficient number of men may be found to aid in presenting to the University this, what may fairly be called unique, collection of memorabilia of the war.

#### COMMENT ON CANADA'S NEW NICKEL COIN.

"The replacement of the Canadian silver five-cent piece with a coin similar in size and materials to the United States 'nickel' should bring joy to our neighbors across the border. If there was a meaner coin in circulation than this silver scale, difficult to handle and easily lost, few American tourists were aware of it. The new coin will not only be a great convenience to the Canadians at all times, but it will do away with much profanity on the part of American visitors in the tourist season."

The above is from the Springfield (Mass.) Union. If the writer is as old as his wisdom indicates he should easily recall that the United States not so many years ago had a silver coin of the same size and possessing the same elusive qualities. He should also recall that we could go Canada one better in our silver three-cent piece, perhaps the most unpopular coin ever issued by the United States on account of its size, and this, too, at a time when copper cents nearly as large as a half dollar circulated side by side with it. Canada was a little slow in abolishing the silver five cents and issuing a coin in its place that is easy to handle.

#### STILL, THEY CALL IT MONEY.

A press dispatch from Moscow says that the city Soviet (corresponding to an American city council) has decided that the city must be self supporting and has published a schedule of new taxes for revenue purposes. Among them are: For marriage applications, 15,000 rubles; divorce applications, 20,000 rubles; change of name, 100,000 rubles; permission to change residence, 1,000 rubles; tax on concerts or lectures maintaining buffet, 50,000 rubles; tax on rubber stamps used by business firms, 100,000 rubles. As the official exchange rate, on the day these taxes were decreed, was 100,000 rubles to the dollar, an American in Moscow armed with a \$5 bill "could get married, be divorced, change his name, change his residence—several times, lecture on his honeymoon experiences, and own at least one rubber stamp without breaking another bank note."